

Focus on 5th



News and Events in the 5th Grade
February 7, 2011
www.op97.org

Important Dates

Feb. 9	ISAT Information Night - 6:30pm
Feb. 12	Pancake Breakfast - 9:00am
Feb. 17	Black History Month Presentation
Feb. 21	No School - President's Day
Feb. 28 - Mar 4	ISAT Testing Week

Dear Families,

The School Improvement Team at Brooks worked with Stephanie Grammens, the district's Web master, to create a new Web page on the school's site that offers fifth grade families information and resources they can use as they prepare to make the transition from elementary to middle school. You can access this page by visiting <http://www.op97.org/brooks/entering/index.html>.

We will be holding conferences this week since they were canceled last week due to the severe weather. If your conference was scheduled for last Tuesday, February 1st, it is now rescheduled for this Tuesday, February 8th at the same time as before. Please let one of the fifth grade teachers know if you cannot make this time. If your conference was previously scheduled for Wednesday or Thursday of last week, your child's homeroom teacher should have contacted you to schedule another time. If you do not have a time scheduled for a conference this week, please contact one of the fifth grade teachers.

SPECIALS

Physical Education

We will be having our **7th Annual Holmes Parents Vs. Holmes Staff fundraiser basketball game**. The game will take place on **March 19, 2011** at Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School. It will start at 7pm. Admissions is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children and \$10 for a family of 3 or more.

Spanish

Students can read *El Cuerpo Malo de Simón* to someone for 15 extra points. You can find the story on the Spanish blog- <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Art

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time" -Thomas Merton
Find out what's happening in the Art room every week by visiting Mr. Kristofer's new blog. Go to www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com or go to www.op97.org/holmes where the blog is featured under the "spotlight" section.

GTD

Take a look at the Holmes GTD wiki created by Ms. Circo.
<http://op97holmesgtd.wikispaces.com/Differentiation>



Reading/Literature

This week we continue our novel studies of *The Breadwinner* and *Under the Blood Red Sun*. We will focus on characters this week. Specifically, we will look at the different types of conflict found in fictional text and analyze which types are present in our novels (character vs character, character vs. self, character vs. society, character vs. nature). Students will also analyze how the main characters have changed throughout the novels and what caused those changes. For specific chapter assignments and copies of the comprehension questions for each chapter visit the Reading Wiki and click on the title of your child's

novel. Comprehension Questions are due every Friday!

Math

Graded unit tests will be returned to students by Wednesday. Please review the test with your child. If a parent signature has been requested, please sign and have your child return the test to school. Students with a 2 on the test may correct any mistakes and turn it in for regrading. Today we began a new unit on working with data. This week, we will focus on using bar graphs, line graphs and circle graphs. We will be working in Volume 1 of the Math Journal and all students will need their geometry templates.

Science

The skeletal quizzes were returned to students on Friday. As we continue to learn about the human body, the students will be starting a research project about diseases. Each student will choose a disease they would like to research over the next few weeks. We will also continue to investigate the muscular system.

It is a few months away, but around the end of April, we will be discussing the reproductive system. During conferences, I will have a table set up with the materials we will be using for this unit. Please feel free to look through them and ask me any questions that you may have.

Social Studies

Last week, students did a brilliant job of performing *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* in class! This week we will continue our study of the Constitution with an in-depth look at the Bill of Rights and additional amendments. We will create a folded study guide and will use the SMARTBoard to play a game called *Do I Have a Right?* on Sandra Day O'Connor's website, iCivics.org. This is a great site for civics education, so feel free to investigate it at home.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack**
<http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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